Southwest Miramichi Survey and Testing Project: 1987

by
Patricia M. Allen

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Abstract

Following the excavation of the deeply stratified Oxbow site at the head of tide on the Little Southwest Miramichi River (Allen 1981b), it became apparent that other stratified sites could be found in similar situations within the Miramichi River district. Survey work (Allen 1982) within the Southwest Miramichi estuary recorded several sites which seemed to have potential for cultural stratification. During the last week of July and the first week of August 1987, a small crew sponsored by Archaeological Services, New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage tested three sites within the Southwest Miramichi drainage district.

Two of the tested sites, CfDk48, the Davidson site and CeDk4, the O'Brian site were located on level terraces near the head of tide on the main Southwest Miramichi. The third site, CdDl2 at Six Mile Brook on the Cains River, had been reported by a fishing guide. This was a truly interior site being located some 30 km inland from the confluence of the Cains River and Southwest Miramichi River. CdDl2 was located on a large level terrace which offered potential for cultural stratification.

After four days of testing at the Davidson site, it was determined that the site was a very large Ceramic period camp that had been badly disturbed by over a century of agriculture and by an earlier historic period fishing establishment. Prehistoric artifacts found included dentate and pseudo–scallop stamped pottery as well as bi–pointed projectile points from about 2000 years ago. Some prehistoric deposits were found immediately beneath, but in contact with, the plow zone. These deposits were difficult to identify except in profile. One area of the Davidson site may be of historical interest because it holds artifacts and features associated with the late 18th century Davidson residence/fishing establishment (Davidson 1947:39).

Although the prehistoric Davidson site does not offer much potential for recovery of detailed information, its location near the head of tide and adjacent a long, deep salmon pool suggests that it was probably a large warm weather fishing camp similar to those identified on the Northwest Miramichi (Allen 1981b). The discovery that such large, late period fishing sites also occur along the Southwest Miramichi is significant for late period Miramichi settlement/subsistence pattern studies.

Three days were spent testing the O'Brian site. This site is located on a level terrace on the North bank of the Renous River approximately 400 m upstream from this rivers confluence with the main Southwest Miramichi. The rate of soil accumulation on the site varied greatly and the scanty cultural deposits were found to be much disturbed by both natural and human agents. CeDk4 is not recommended for future research.

The third site tested was located on a long, low terrace on the Cains River opposite the mouth of Six Mile Brook. In one day of testing, this site was found to be culturally stratified to a depth of at least 60 cm. Artifacts

from the first 60 cm included both a recent and an earlier Ceramic period occupation. A late Archaic period axe and projectile point were found on the beach in front of the site. Two large scrapers were found on a cart track located about 25 m inland from the sloping bank . A bank edge profile suggests that the site could be stratified to a depth of over 1.5 m. It is strongly recommended that extensive testing be carried out at this site in the near future.

Acknowledgements

The 1987 testing project could not have been conducted without the permission of the site landowners. My sincere thanks are extended to Mr. Lorek Davidson of Elm Tree, Mr. Terry O'Brian and Ms. Cathy O'Brian of Renous and to members of the Black Brook Salmon Club, Dr. Warren Babson of Massachusetts and Mr. Christopher Arnold of Rhode Island. Without such people who recognize the importance of non–renewable heritage resources, a great deal of our as yet unwritten history would surely be lost. In addition to the above, I would also like to thank Mr. John Curtis, Mr. Angus Curtis and Mr. Albert Curtis for their information concerning the local area.

The well seasoned crew of Scott Finlay, Louise Hale, Albert Ferguson and Ellen Foulkesconducted the two weeks of testing with maximum efficiency. Ellen is to be especially thanked for sharing a portion of her vacation time with us. When a group of old friends with this much practical experience get together, the work becomes as enjoyable as *summer camp*. As usual Angel Gomez Miguelañez is to be congratulated for transforming a number of my rough field drawings into the fine illustrations which accompany this report.

Financing for the 1987 Southwest Miramichi Project was supplied by Archaeological Services, Provincial Parks and Historic Sites Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage, as a part of a continuing study into Native life in the Miramichi River Basin.

Introduction

During the last week of July and the first week of August 1987, archaeological testing was conducted on three sites located within the Southwest Miramichi River drainage. Two of the tested sites, the Davidson site (CfDk48) and the O'Brian site (CeDk4) had been discovered during an earlier 1980 survey of the Miramichi estuary (Allen 1982). Both sites lie within the uppermost portion of the Southwest Miramichi estuary (Fig.1). The third site tested, the Six Mile Brook site, (CdDl2) had been more recently reported by a river guide. The Six Mile Brook site is located on the Cains River, approximately 30 km from its junction with the Southwest Miramichi (Fig.2,3).

The two week testing project was sponsored by Archaeological Services, Provincial Parks and Historic Sites Branch of the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage. The project was directed by myself under Archaeological Field Research Licence No. 87NB1. The experienced field crew included Scott Finley, Louise Hale, Albert Ferguson and, for a period of three days, volunteer Ellen Foulkes. All records and artifacts recovered during the project are currently stored with Archaeological Services, Fredericton.

With a time limitation of just seven working days, the extent and type of testing varied according to the perceived importance of each site. Unfortunately, as more than occasionally happens in Archaeology, what is perceived and what actually is, are two different things.

Four days were spent at the Davidson site where both historic and prehistoric artifacts were found eroding from the 5 m high bank edge over a distance of 200+ m. The fact that the 1987 spring freshet had deposited ice on top of this terrace suggested that cultural materials could indeed, at this site, be separated by alluvial deposits. Two days were spent at the O'Brian site near the mouth of the Renous River while only day was devoted to testing the Six Mile Brook site on the Cains River. Each of the sites are described according to site location, archaeological activity, artifacts recovered and site potential for future research.

The Davidson Site (CfDk48)

Location

The Davidson site is located on the North bank of the Southwest Miramichi River approximately 3 km below the mouth of the Renous River (Fig.1). The site lies on the lower terrace of the Lorek Davidson farm in the community of Elmtree, Northumberland County . At this location the river channel is deep and runs close to the shore. The terrace, approximately 5 m above the river level, is presently a hay field that has been extensively cultivated for at least a century (Fig.4).

The Lorek Davidson farm property is a portion of the original William Davidson and John Cort Grant of 1765. Between 1783 and 1785, William Davidson built a house and established a fishery on this property. Fol-

lowing the Miramichi fire of 1825, Phineas, a son of William Davidson, built another house in the same general area (Davidson 1947). The prehistoric Indian settlement of CfDk48 was recorded during the 1980 archaeological survey of the Southwest Miramichi estuary (Allen 1982).

Archaeology

During the 1980 survey only a few flakes were noted eroding from the upper bank edge of CfDk48 (Allen 1982). Despite the lack of material, a note was made that the site could possibly be stratified and that it should be tested at some future date. During 1984, a Miramichi newspaper carried a story describing Indian artifacts found by a Mr. Lorek Davidson during the years he worked his farmland at Elmtree. The projectile points shown in the article photograph dated from just pre–contact notched forms to 2500 year old stemmed forms. In the spring of 1987, the author registered Mr. Davidson's private collection with Archaeological Services. Following the return of his artifacts, Mr. Davidson gave permission to have his site tested during the 1987 season.

An initial reconnaissance of CfDk48 revealed that the 1987 spring freshet had gouged the bank edge of the site. Mr. Davidson told us that during the same freshet ice had been deposited on top of the terrace. Both prehistoric and historic artifacts were strewn along the bank for at least 100 m. A series of four test units were placed along the terrace edge over a distance of approximately 100 m and along a base line set at 77º East of North (Fig.5). Test units 1, 2, and 3 were 2 m square, later to be reduced to half that size. Unit 4 was one by 2 m.

Following the removal of the sod and plow zone as one level, all test units were shovel shined in 10 cm arbitrary levels. The plow zone generally ranged between 22 cm and 32 cm in depth. Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 were excavated to final depths of 88 cm, 135 cm, 120 cm and 70 cm respectively. A typical CfDk48 profile is illustrated (Fig. 6).

All CfDk48 test units produced both historic and prehistoric artifacts, charcoal and fire cracked rocks within the plow zone. Units 1, 2 and 4 produced prehistoric hearth areas in the base of the plow zone (Fig.6). While the deeper portions of these features may have escaped disturbance, most appeared to have had at least their upper areas scraped and dragged. The prehistoric hearth found at the base of the plow zone in Unit 4 appeared little disturbed by the plow but was cut into by another historic feature (Fig.7). This unit yielded two such historic features, possibly the remains of sills or some other type of building support.

Artifact Analysis

Surface Finds—Historic

While a large number of typical mid–19th century and early 20th century ceramic fragments were found eroding from the bank edges, only a few pieces of late 18th century and early 19th century cermics were noted. A small base portion of a white saltglaze stoneware cup or bowl was recovered (Fig.14a). According to Noel Hume (1969:115), true white saltglaze became the typical English tableware of the mid–18th C. Several fragments of pale yellow creamware were also recovered (Fig.14c). In co-

lonial America this ware probably dates to the last quarter of the 18th century (Noel Hume 1969:128).

A fragment of a small silver cuff link having a 12 mm square silver setting was found on the bank edge (Fig.14i). The setting holds a square glass stone which covers a plate decorated with two tiny interlocking horse shoes made from gold braid.

The private collection of Lorek Davidson, mostly picked from the plowed ground during the last 60 years, contains a number of artifacts which span the latter half of the 18th century and the earlier portion of the 19th century (Noel Hume 1969). Fragments of ceramics in the Davidson collection include both plain white saltglaze stoneware (Fig.14a) or the same ware with incised ornament filled with cobalt blue (Fig.14b), a few fragments of saltglaze Rhenish stoneware with cobalt blue (Fig.14d), a few pieces of decorated Chinese trade porcelain (Fig.14e) and a number of creamware fragments (Fig.14c). The 19th century is well represented by many fragments of pearlware, transfer decorated earthenware, as well as other earthenware and stoneware pieces and numerous fragments of clay tobacco pipe stems.

The private collection of Mr. Davidson also included; the small base, with pontil mark, of a medium green late 18th century pharmaceutical bottle (Fig.14f) (Noel Hume 1969:73), a white metal button belonging to the period 1726-1776 (Fig.14j) (Noel Hume 1969:90), the kick–up portion of a dark green wine bottle, the base of a stemmed drinking glass (Fig.14g) and a cast lead rope weight (Fig.14k). Corroded metal pieces from the private collection included a probable 18th century knife blade with a small portion of a bone handle remaining (Fig.15i)(Noel Hume 1969:182), as well as hand hammered nails (Fig.15e–h), spikes (Fig.15a,d), heavy iron pins (Fig.15b,c) and a few fragments of metal plates.

Surface Finds—Prehistoric

One base fragment of a prehistoric pot was found (Fig.17i). The fragment is grit tempered, has a maximum thickness of 10 mm and is partially decorated on the exterior with a large toothed dentate stamp . The fragment may well date earlier than 2200 years ago (Allen 1987).

One small quartz scraper was picked from the eroding bank. The specimen is 23 mm long by 13 mm wide by 7 mm thick (Fig.17d). The working edge height is only 2 mm while the working edge span is 14 mm. In the Maritimes, small thumbnail scrapers such as this are often thought to represent the late Ceramic period (Allen 1984 : 14).

One medium to large sized stemmed quartz biface was recovered from the bank edge (Fig.16l). The maximum length of the specimen is unknown as it has a broken tip. The maximum width is 27 mm and the maximum thickness is 11 mm. The base of the specimen is convex and the shoulders are wide rounded. The specimen appears similar to those recovered from the Augustine Mound (Turnbull 1980) which probably pre–date 2400 years ago (Allen 1987).

In addition to the above one fragment of a thick quartz biface preform and several dozen flakes were collected by the crew from the exposed bank edge. The collection of Lorek Davidson contains many flakes, cores,

biface fragments and a number of projectile points. The projectile point forms range between the bipointed, small stemmed and corner–notched types of the mid to late Ceramic Period (Fig.12a,b).

Excavated Finds—Historic

The collection of historic material excavated from the plow zone of Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 includes artifacts similar to those that have been described above as surface finds. The ceramics include fragments of stoneware, porcelain, pearlware as well as glazed and unglazed earthenware from both the 18th century and 19th century. The excavated materials also included hand wrought as well as cut and wire nails, spikes and other metal fragments, clay pipe stem and bowl pieces, and some small pieces of burnt animal bone. One small lead bar of unknown use was also recovered (Fig.14h). The vast majority of the 19th century historic artifacts came from the area of test unit 3 where Phineas Davidson, son of William Davidson, is reported to have built a house following the 1825 Miramichi fire (Davidson 1947).

Excavated Finds—Prehistoric

While flakes were recovered from all of the test units, unit 2 at the eastern end of the site produced most of the prehistoric artifacts. With the exception of a few flakes found in the base portion of a hearth feature in unit 4 and a large number of flakes and a few ceramic fragments from the base portion of a similar feature in unit 2, all of the following artifacts were recovered from the plow zone.

The 17 ceramic fragments recovered from the base portion of the hearth in unit 2 are small, grit tempered and coarse textured. Two of the sherds, one of these a rim, are decorated with a pseudo scallop stamp (Fig.17h). The other sherds are undecorated but have smoothed interior and exterior surfaces. The rim sherd, approximately 7 mm thick at a point 1 cm beneath the lip, is slightly outward flaring in profile. The decoration consists of parallel lines of the pseudo–scallop tool applied to the oblique left.

Amongst the stone tools that were recovered from the plow zone of unit 2 were four scrapers. The first of these is manufactured on a cortex quartz flake and measures 27 mm by 29 mm by 10 mm thick. The specimen is worked along two opposing edges which respectively measure 27 mm and 29 mm across (Fig.17a). The second scraper is also made of quartz and was manufactured on a thick cortex flake. The specimen is 53 mm by 29 mm by 20 mm thick and has a distal left working edge of 27 mm (Fig.17f). Neither the dorsal nor the ventral surfaces of either of these artifacts have been altered.

Both of the other scrapers, one quartz and one rhyolite, are triangular in form. The quartz specimen is 33 mm by 26 mm by 11mm thick and has a distal working edge with a 25 mm span with an edge height of 5mm (Fig.17c). The grey rhyolite specimen is 49 mm by 32 mm by 7 mm thick and is worked on all three sides. The distal edge span is 32 mm and the edge height is 4mm (Fig.17b).

Two nearly intact projectile points, one base fragment and two projectile point tips were recovered from unit 2. All the specimens are made from quartz. One intact specimen is 43 mm long by 15mm wide by 8mm thick and has a contracting stem with wide angled shoulders and a bluntly rounded base (Fig16k). The one base fragment from the unit also has a contracting stem but the base appears more pointed (Fig.16m). Contracting stemmed points such as these have been dated, at the Oxbow site on the Northwest Miramichi River, from 1700±60 B.P.—A.D.275 (Allen 1984:13).

The other nearly intact unit 2 projectile point, a portion of the base and the tip are missing, was manufactured from a quartz crystal. The maximum width of the specimen is 17 mm and the maximum thickness is 9 mm. This specimen appears to have been corner–notched before it was broken (Fig.16j). In northeastern New Brunswick corner–notched points are known to have been used just prior to European contact (Allen 1984:14).

In addition to the projectile points and scrapers, three biface fragments were found in the plow zone of unit 2. Two of the specimens are of quartz and the other is made from a mottled pink chert. One quartz specimen is 31 mm wide by 14 mm thick and has a lobate base and an edge angle of about 40º to 50º (Fig.16g). The other quartz specimen is a biface preform with an edge angle of 80º. The chert artifact may be a mid–section of a large stemmed projectile point, having one wide angled shoulder present and an edge angle of between 30º and 40º (Fig.16f).

In addition to a large number of stone tool fragments, one small fragment of decorated burnt bone was recovered from the plow zone of unit 2. The specimen is only 5 mm wide by 10 mm long, but is incised with four obliquely oriented parallel lines (Fig.17j). A number of other small burnt bone fragments were also collected from the plow zone of this unit.

Unit 1 yielded a few flakes as well as a section of a large quartz chopper and a large quartz uniface. The uniface was made along one edge of a large cortex flake and measures 92 mm long by 52 mm wide by 22 mm thick. One edge is unifacially retouched over a straight distance of 55 mm, has a edge height of 8 mm and an edge angle of 80º (Fig.17g).

Unit 4 at the far western end of the site yielded areas of historic disturbance beneath the plow zone (Fig.7). One of these historic features cut into a small prehistoric hearth which otherwise may have been free from disturbance by the plow. Only a few flakes were found in the undisturbed portion of this hearth.

Within the plow zone of unit 4 two biface fragments, one small quartz scraper and a fragment of a sandstone abrasive stone were recovered. Both biface fragments are manufactured from a light green siltstone. The smaller specimen is a convex base measuring 42 mm wide by 10 mm thick (Fig.16a). The second specimen is a large mid–section measuring 73 mm across by 12 mm thick (Fig.16h). This specimen is reminiscent of late Archaic biface forms found in the area (Allen 1981a).

The small quartz scraper found in unit 4 was manufactured from an elongated cortex flake and measures 34 mm by 19 mm by 5 mm thick (Fig. 17e). The distal working edge of the specimen has a span of 15 mm, a 90 working edge angle and an edge height of 4 mm.

Conclusions

The lower terrace of the Lorek Davidson farm was firstly, for at least the last 2500 years, the site of a large native village which spread over a 2 acre area. CfDk48 was no doubt a warm weather camp that was occupied and re-occupied because of iots excellent salmon fishing location. In this respect the site compares favourably with other large prehjistoric fishing camps identified near the head of tide on the Northwest and Little Southwest Miramichi Rivers (Allen 1981a).

Unfortunately, the multiple native occupations at CfDk48 did not have much vertical separation and have suffered greatly from over a century of plowing. Some prehistoric features may lie "just beneath" the plow zone, although a considerable amount of time, testing and good judgement would be needed to distinguish between disturbed and undisturbed deposits. In sum,C fDk48 haS been agriculturally disturbed and its future research value would have to be carefully weighed. The mere presence of such a large and intensively occupied site at this particular location, however, reinforces our current understanding of Late Period economic pattens within the Miramichi River District.

The second and equally as interesting aspect of CfDk48 is that during the 18th century it was the chosen residence and business location of a Miramichi entrepreneur. While the exact location of the William Davidson residence was not found during the 1987 testing, a number of artifacts from this time period were recovered. With additional historical research, maps and documents, this important historic site may be more accurately located.

Many mid–19th century artifacts were found near the western end of the area tested. In addition, some historic structural features were also found here. The artifacts probably belong to the house of Phineas, son of William Davidson. This residence was reportedly built following the Miramichi fire of 1825. A 1947 photo of the area corresponds with the location of our 1987 test unit 3. This site and its contents would certainly be worth comparing to the earlier historic residence of William Davidson, Miramichi lumberman, fisherman and shipbuilder (Davidson 1947).

Recommendations

Both the prehistoric and historic occupations of the Davidson site have been badly disturbed by over 100 years of plowing. The prehistoric component of the site does not have a large research potential. The information it could provide must be weighed not only against the cost of a major excavation but also against the quality of information to be gained from an undisturbed site of a similar nature. I would recommend that further prehistoric research at CfDk48 be indefinitely delayed.

The 18th century and 19th century historic occupations at CfDk48 could be of considerable assistance in the interpretation of more recent Miramichi history. William Davidson, prominent 18th century Miramichi businessman, built his home and established a fishery on this property during the years 1783–1785. Any serious historical research into the life and times of William Davidson should take this site into consideration.

The O'Brian Site (CeDk4)

Location

The O'Brian site was also discovered during the 1980 survey of the Southwest Miramichi estuary (Allen 1982). The site is located on the North bank of the Renous River about 500 m West of its confluence with the Southwest Miramichi (Fig.1). The O'Brian terrace, which also has been intensively cultivated, rests approximately 5 m above the river level on a narrow riverside terrace(Fig. 8).

The site area is divided by a small brook which separates an area of new poplar growth on the West from a golden rod/purple vetch covered field on the East. The young growth of poplar replaces larger trees that had been destroyed by fire during recent years. The terrace is known to flood during high spring freshets and is presently is used as a parking area for local salmon fishermen.

Archaeology

During the 1980 survey a number of flakes were found amongst the rows of turnips that were then growing on the terrace. A brief examination of the bank edge suggested that the terrace was built by layers of alluvium. The testing was recommended to determine if CeDk4 was culturally stratified. The 1987 work was a result of this earlier assessment.

During the two days that were spent at the O'Brian site three 0.75 m by 1.50m test units were excavated. All units were oriented perpendicular to the Renous River. Test unit 1 was located about 10 m back from the bank edge within the area of new growth approximately 20 m West of the small stream. Test unit 2 was placed near the bank edge about 10 m East of the stream. Test unit 3 was located a few meters from the bank edge at the Eastern end of the O'Brian property (Fig 8).

Each of the units was excavated with level 1 consisting of sod and plow zone combined. The plow zone was estimated to be between 30 and 32 cm thick in units 2 and 3. No cultural material was found in the upper level of unit 1 while the other units produced a combination of 20th century historic material and a few flakes. Beneath the plow zone, units 2 and 3 produced silt, sand and gravel layers to final depths of 110 cm and 105 cm respectively. No cultural material was recovered from within these layers.

Beneath the plow zone in unit 1, a thick layer of sand separated the recent plow zone from a buried cultural level at a depth of 80 cm . At first judged to be a sealed cultural horizon producing charcoal, quartz and chert flakes, this reddish brown silt level eventually produced round nails and a link of iron chain. The overburden of mixed sand in the area west of the brook had been deposited within the last Century! It also ap-

pears that the unit 1 mixed cultural level at 80 cm corresponds to the upper plow zone levels of units 2 and 3. Unit 1 was abandoned at a depth 110 cm.

Artifact Analysis

Surface Finds

One badly plow scraped axe preform was found in the eroding bank near test unit 3 . The total length of the implement is 150 mm, the maximum width is 74 mm and the maximum thickness is 26 mm. The bit of the artifact had been ground but not to a cutting edge. Both lateral edges of the axe were lightly chipped and the butt of the implement appeared to have been broken during chipping.

Excavated Artifacts

Apart from the above described axe, only a few flakes and fragments of 20th century historic artifacts were recovered from the plow zone of units 2 and 3 and from the buried plow zone of unit 1.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is likely that the O'Brian site had been occasionally occupied during recent prehistoric times for the purpose of salmon fishing. Areas just downriver on both sides of the main Southwest Miramichi and on the peninsula separating the Renous and the Southwest Miramichi were probably used much more extensively (Allen 1982). The O'Brian site has been badly disturbed both by agriculture and by ice action during spring freshets. The natural accumulation of alluvium across the terrace varies dramatically and I suspect that over the years just as much soil has been removed from the site as has been deposited. The O'Brian site holds little research potential and need not be tested further.

The Six Mile Brook Site (CdDl2)

Location

The Six Mile Brook site is located on the Cains River approximately 30 km southwest of its confluence with the main Southwest Miramichi (Fig.2). Access to CdDl2 can be gained via a woods roads which connect with New Brunswick Route 8 at Upper Blackville Bridge. A longer but alternative route to the site involves the use of the South Cains River road from Gray Rapids into the Black Brook Salmon lodge where it would then be necessary to ford the river.

CdDl2 is located on the 1.5 m high terrace which lies on the North bank of the Cains opposite the mouth of Six Mile Brook and the lodges of the Black Brook Salmon Club. The near level terrace forms a widely rounded bend in the river which extends both up and down stream from

the area tested (Fig.3). The terrace is of an undetermined length but appears in excess of 200–300 m.

The 40–60 m wide terrace in some places consists of a lower and upper level separated by an elevation of about 1 m . At least two small areas appear to have been gouged by ice (Fig.3). The partially cleared and partially alder covered terrace is backed by a mature spruce forest. Site deposits may also extend into this forested area. A cart track runs East to West across the terrace and connects to a steep gravel road which leads to higher ground. The bank edge immediately in front of the tested area is slightly eroded. The cleared portion of the site appears well used by campers and canoeists (Fig.9).

The Six Mile Brook site is privately owned by the Black Brook Salmon Club of Worcester, Massachusetts. This Club is currently composed of 12 members from the eastern United States. Use of the Club lodges at Six Mile Brook generally occurs during the fall when the salmon return to this portion of the river.

Archaeology

The Six Mile Brook site was first drawn to my attention by Sheila Grondin, a former UNB student and former summer field assistant with Archaeological Services. She suggested that I may want to see some artifacts found by Mr. Angus Curtis of Gray Rapids, Northumberland County. As a result of contacting Mr. Curtis, a late Archaic stemmed projectile point and a late Archaic axe were recorded within our Private Collectors Registration programme (Fig.13a,b). One artifact had been found by Angus Curtis and the other by his father, Albert Curtis. Both items had been picked from the beach near the mouth of Six Mile Brook on the Cains River.

While several attempts were made to contact members of the Black Brook Salmon Club for permission to test CdDl2, only on the second last day of our project was permission gained. One evening was spent driving to the site, surface collecting and laying in test units. The next day was spent testing the site. Artifacts were surface collected from the entire exposed bank area as well as from cart track leading down to and across the terrace (Fig.3).

Two 1 m square test units were placed near the terrace edge at either end of the exposed bank where artifacts had been surface collected (Fig.3). A third unit was placed somewhat downriver from the others in an area where the terrace was divided into two levels (Fig.3). The first level was less than 20 m wide and approximately 1 m lower than the next. All three test units were excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels following removal of the sod layer as level 1.

Unit 1, the most easterly of the tests, was found to have a clean sand overburden of approximately 47 cm to 50 cm. At a depth of 50 cm, the floor of the unit turned to dark brown silt containing chert and quartz flakes. This level appeared undisturbed. Test units 2 and 3 were capped by a thin brown sandy loam in which recent historic artifacts were found. Beneath this level a 10 cm layer of coarse gray sterile sand was encountered . At a depth of between 22 cm and 30 cm the sand turned to

charcoal stained silt with layers of cultural deposits occurring to a depth of at least 60 cm (Fig.10). Due to a lack of time units 1, 2 and 3 were abandoned at depths of 50 cm, 50 cm and 60 cm respectively.

In an effort to identify the possible maximum depth of cultural deposits at the site, a section of bank edge was cut into just South of unit 3. The bank edge profile revealed two Ceramic period cultural layers within the first 50 cm followed by another 100+ cm of compact silt without distinctive cultural bands (Fig.10). A few meters North of this profile, unit 3 produced cultural material from at least 10 cm deeper than recorded on the bank face. According to unit 3, cultural features such as the hearth found at 60 cm are not necessarily associated with distinctively colored layers and may occur at any point within the compacted silt (Fig.10).

Artifact Analysis

Surface Finds

Aside from a number of flakes, cores and some recent historic artifacts, the surface collected artifacts from CdDl2 included two large scrapers, one rectangular ground stone bar and an edge ground triangular bar. Two of the surface collected non–quartz flakes were chipped from ground stone (Fig.18e). These artifacts are in addition to the earlier private collectors finds of a late Archaic stemmed point (Fig.13a) and ground stone axe (Fig.13b).

The two surface collected scrapers, one quartz and one chert, were picked from the cart track ruts near the edge of the spruce forest (Fig.3). The quartz specimen is manufactured on a large cortex flake and is 60 mm long by 35 mm wide by 18 mm thick with a convex working edge span of 27 mm, a height of 13 mm and an edge angle of 90º (Fig.18c). The chert scraper is broken in cross–section but measures 31 mm wide by 17 mm thick. The distal working edge span is 29 mm, the edge height is 12 mm and the edge angle is 70 (Fig.18d). Both scrapers have their dorsal surfaces chipped with unaltered ventral surfaces.

The rectangular shaped sandstone bar has been abraded on its one unbroken face and along both longitudinal edges (Fig.18f). The specimen has a broken length of 122 mm, an intact width of 38 mm and a broken thickness of 13 mm. The second ground stone artifact is in the form of an isosceles triangle with one broken tip. The one intact edge of the specimen is 81 mm in length and its maximum thickness is 12 mm. Two of the edges have been ground so that they form right angles with the body of the artifact (Fig.18g).

Excavated Finds

At a depth of 22 cm unit 3 produced a corner–notched projectile point having a slightly broken base and tip (Fig.18a). The mottled gray siltstone point has a maximum width of 23 mm, a maximum thickness of 7 mm, a notch width of 2 mm and a notch depth of 3 mm. The neck width across

the notches is 16 mm .

Two small rim sherds and one body sherd of dentate stamped pottery were recovered from unit 2 at a depth of just over 40 cm. The rim is just barley 4 mm thick and has a vertical profile. The lip edge is flat and undecorated. The exterior of the of the rim is stamped with horizontal rows of linear dentate (Fig.18b). The site also produced a few sherds of plain pottery from the bank edge at a depth of 50 cm.

Other than the projectile point and pottery, a combination of charcoal stains, burnt silt, fire cracked rocks, flakes, tiny fragments of burnt bone and charcoal chunks were found in various concentrations from depths of 22 cm to 60 cm in units 2 and 3. Within these depths both units produced portions of small hearth (Fig.10,11).

Conclusions

While testing at Six Mile Brook was unfortunately time restricted, the results from only one day of work were more than encouraging. The site has not been extensively disturbed during recent historic times. Any historic material found came from within a thin sod layer which was separated from the underlying prehistoric deposits by a layer of fine sterile silt (Fig.10,11).

The site is probably very large and no doubt culturally richer, deeper and older in some areas than in others. Presently we know that Six Mile Brook dates from at least the early to the late Ceramic period. According to the surface collected artifacts and the bank edge profile, the potential for deeper buried layers extending back into the late Archaic is very good!

Recommendations

Although we have some idea of the nature of the Six Mile Brook site, its true antiquity and physical boundaries have yet to be defined. The possibility that this may be an undisturbed interior stratified site dating from the late Archaic into the late Ceramic period is indeed exciting. In the interest of Maritime prehistory I would recommend that this site be extensively tested at our earliest convenience.

Survey summary

During the last week of July and the first week of Agust 1987, seven days were spent testing three known archaeological sites within the Southwest Miramichi River drainage. The scant deposits at the O'Brian site near the mouth of the Renous river were found to be badly disturbed and to hold little of interest for future research. The Davidson site, located about 3 km below the head of tide on the main Southwest Miramichi, was found to be heavily used during the prehistoric Ceramic Period and was later occupied by entrepreneur William Davidson during the 18th century. A portion of the site area was occupied by Phineas Davidson during the 19th century. Although CfDk48 has been badly disturbed by agricultural activities, the area is judged to have definite historical research value.

The Six Mile Brook site on the Cains River holds much prehistoric research potential. This site is basically undisturbed, culturally stratified and could yield information concerning the Late Archaic, Transitional and Early Ceramic Period cultures in the Maritimes. The results of one day of testing at this site made the 1987 Southwest Miramichi Project more than profitable.

Figures

Figure 1— 1987 Southwest Miramichi River Testing Project—Map of CfDk48 and CeDk4 Site Locations

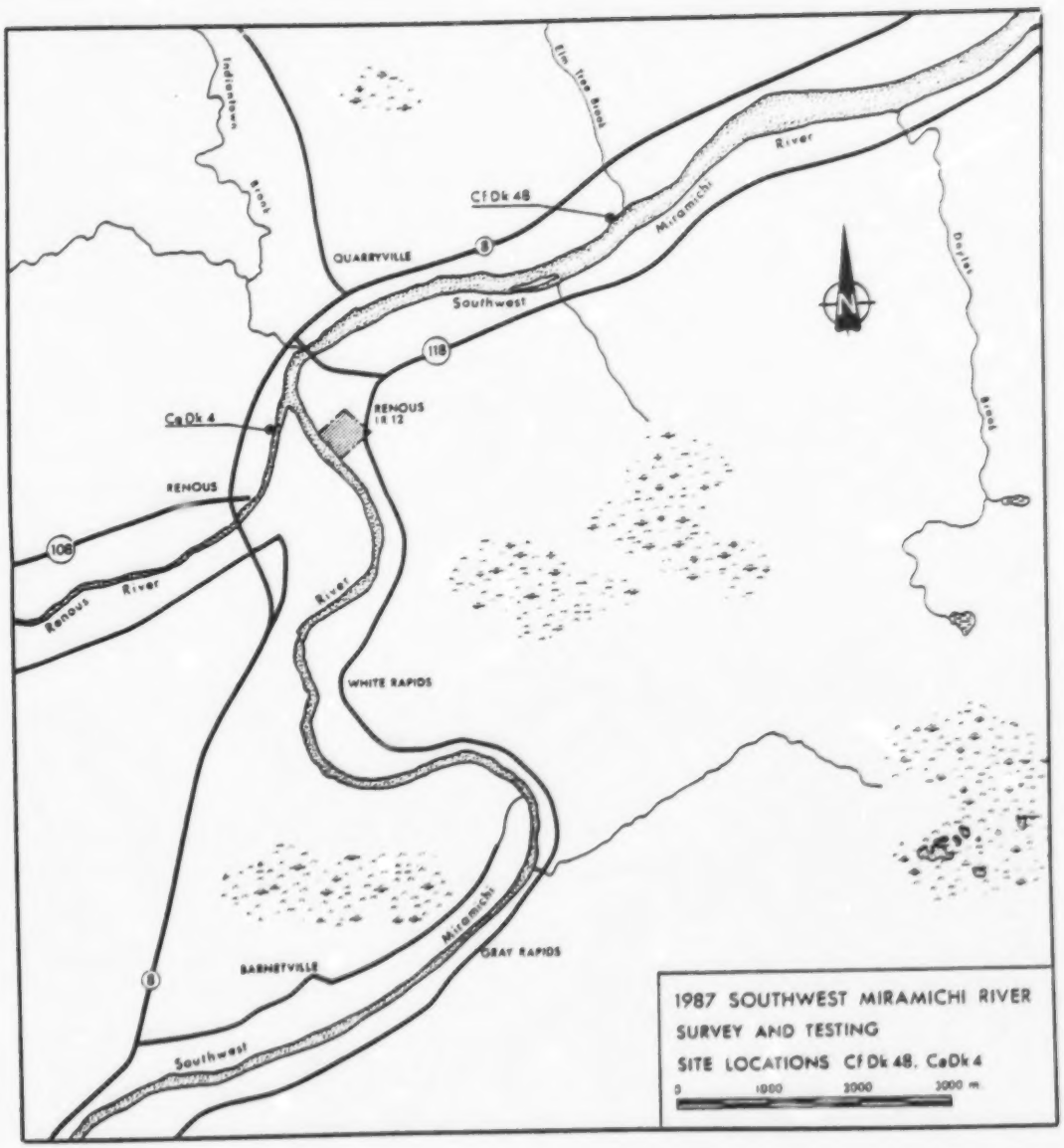

Indiantown Brook
Elm Tree Brook
River
Miramichi
Cf Dk 48
QUARRYVILLE
8
Southwest
118
Dorlet Brook
N
Ca Dk 4
RENOUS IR 12
RENOUS
108
Renous River
River
WHITE RAPIDS
Miramichi
GRAY RAPIDS
BARNETVILLE
8
Southwest
1987 SOUTHWEST MIRAMICHI RIVER
SURVEY AND TESTING
SITE LOCATIONS Cf Dk 48, Ca Dk 4
0
1000
2000
3000 m

Figure 2— CdDl2 Six Mile Brook Site Location

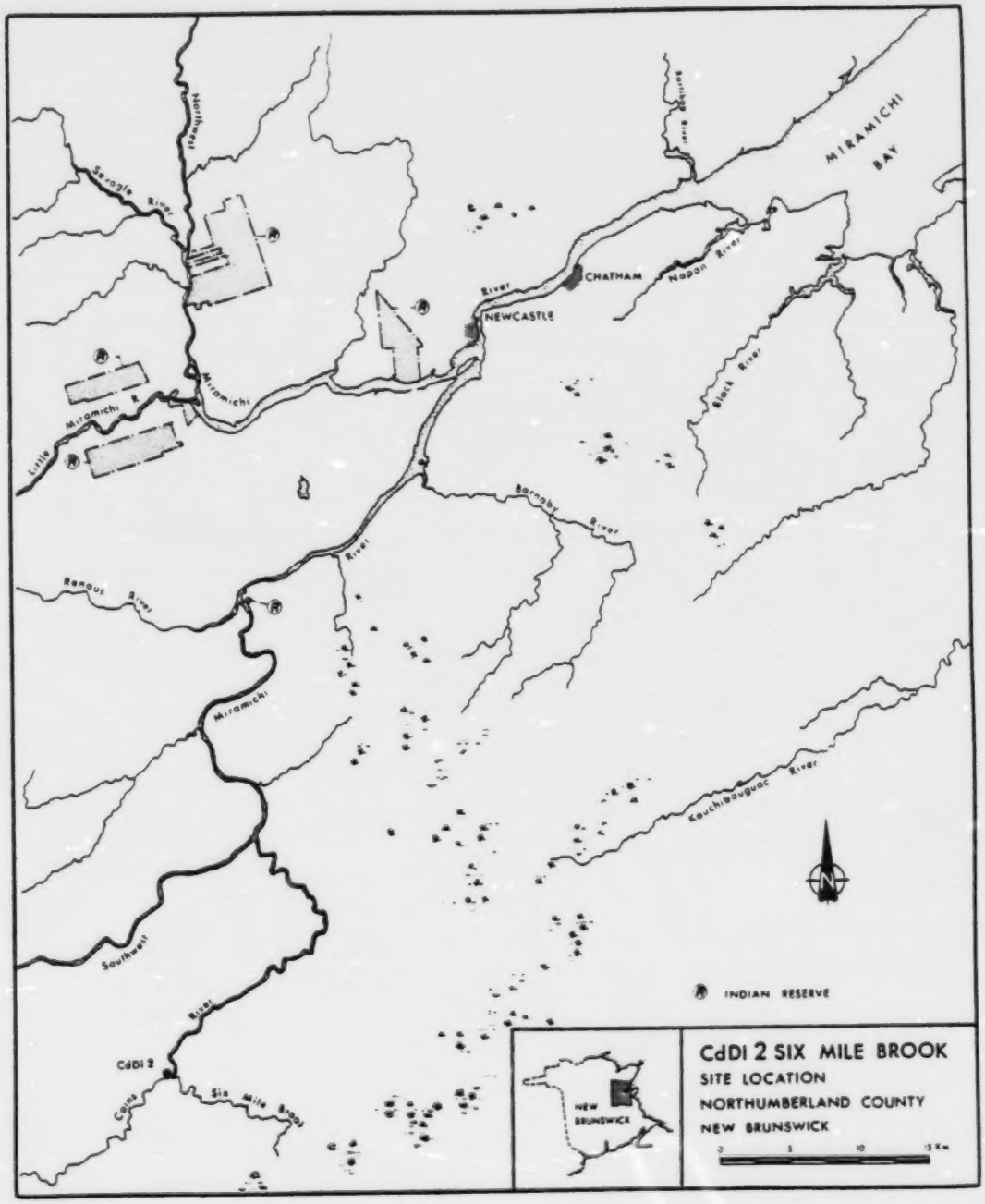

MIRAMICHI BAY
CHATHAM
NEWCASTLE
Northwest
Sevogle River
Miramichi
Little Miramichi
Barnaby River
Renous River
Black River
Napan River
Escuminac River
Kouchibouguac River
Southwest
Miramichi
River
Cains River
Six Mile Brook
CdDl 2
INDIAN RESERVE
NEW BRUNSWICK
CdDl 2 SIX MILE BROOK
SITE LOCATION
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY
NEW BRUNSWICK
0 5 10 15 Km

Figure 3— CdDl2 Six Mile Brook Site Plan

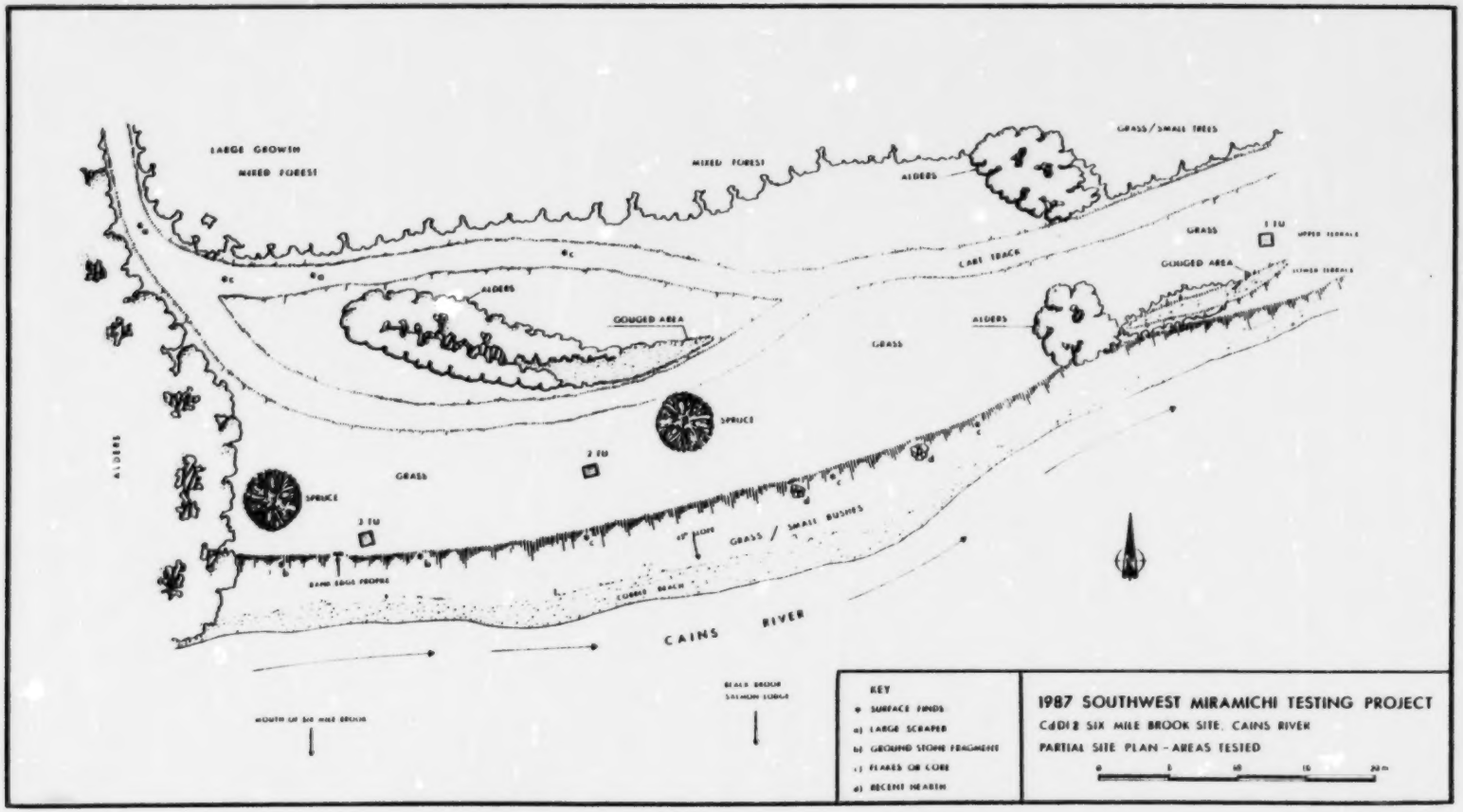

LARGE GROWTH
MIXED FOREST
MIXED FOREST
ALDERS
GRASS/SMALL TREES
GRASS
1 TU
UPPER TERRACE
CART TRACK
GOUGED AREA
LOWER TERRACE
ALDERS
GOUGED AREA
ALDERS
GRASS
SPRUCE
2 TU
SPRUCE
GRASS
2 TU
GRASS / SMALL BUSHES
CAINS RIVER
KEY
• SURFACE FINDS
a) LARGE SCRAPER
b) GROUND STONE FRAGMENT
c) FLAKES OR CORE
d) RECENT HEARTH
1987 SOUTHWEST MIRAMICHI TESTING PROJECT
CdDl2 SIX MILE BROOK SITE, CAINS RIVER
PARTIAL SITE PLAN - AREAS TESTED

Figure 4— CfDk48 Davidson Site, Test Units 2 and 3 on Lower Terrace

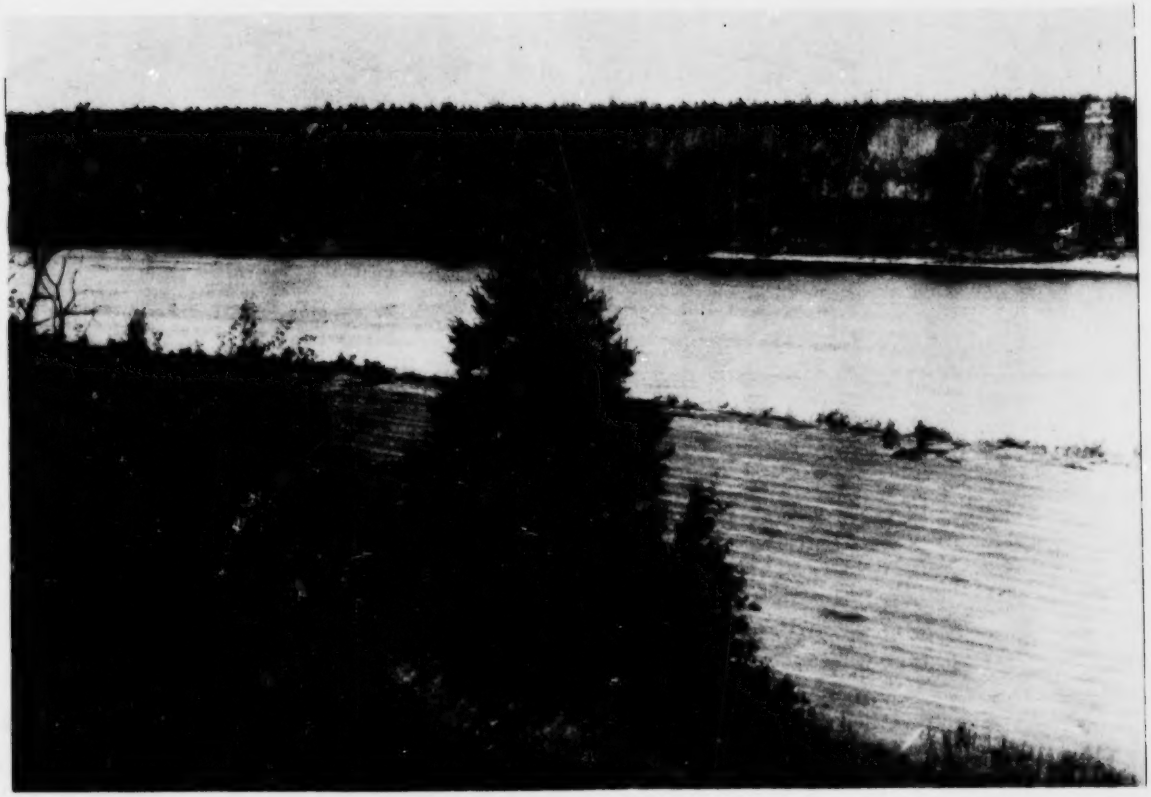


Figure 5— CfDk48 Davidson Site Plan

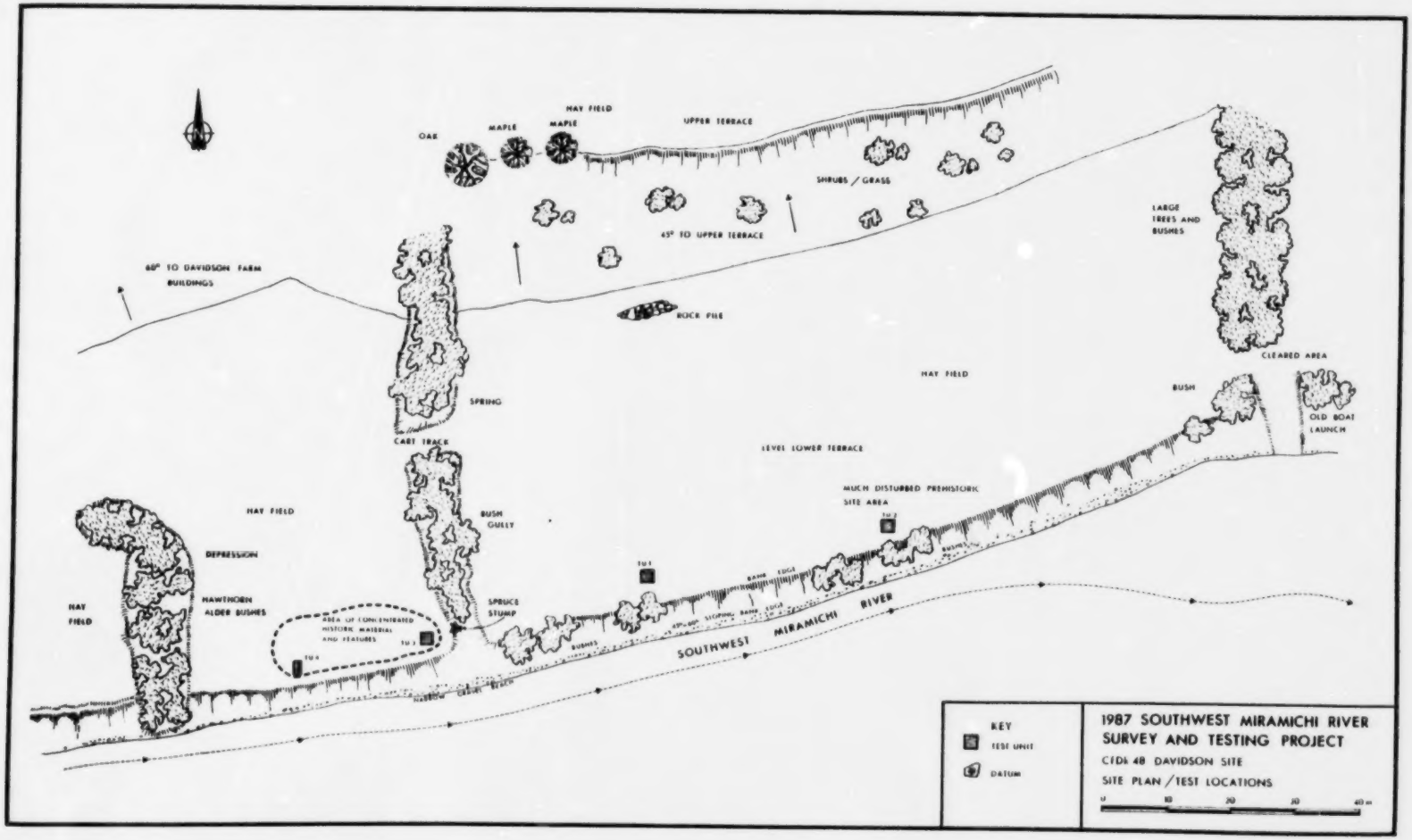
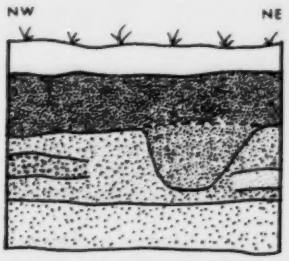
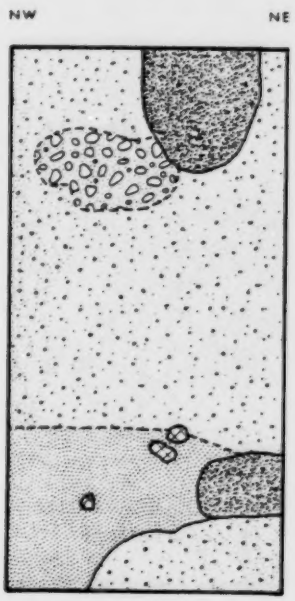

OAK
MAPLE
MAPLE
HAY FIELD
UPPER TERRACE
SHRUBS / GRASS
LARGE TREES AND BUSHES
45° TO UPPER TERRACE
60° TO DAVIDSON FARM BUILDINGS
ROCK PILE
CLEARED AREA
HAY FIELD
BUSH
OLD BOAT LAUNCH
SPRING
CART TRACK
LEVEL LOWER TERRACE
MUCH DISTURBED PREHISTORIC SITE AREA
HAY FIELD
BUSH GULLY
DEPRESSION
HAY FIELD
HAWTHORN ALDER BUSHES
SPRUCE STUMP
AREA OF CONCENTRATED HISTORIC MATERIAL AND FEATURES
SOUTHWEST MIRAMICHI RIVER
KEY
TEST UNIT
DATUM
1987 SOUTHWEST MIRAMICHI RIVER SURVEY AND TESTING PROJECT
CfDk 48 DAVIDSON SITE
SITE PLAN / TEST LOCATIONS

Figure 6— CfDk48 Davidson Site, Test Unit 2, East Wall Profile



NORTH WALL PROFILE
FINAL DEPTH 50 cm



FLOOR PLAN
DEPTH 35 cm / BASE PLOW ZONE

SOD
LIGHT SILT
DARK ORANGE SILT
DARK BROWN HUMUS
DARK SILT/HISTORIC SILL
ORANGE MOTTLED SILT
BUFF SILT
FIRE CRACKED ROCK
GRAVEL
DARK SILT/HISTORIC SILL STAIN
BROWN ORGANIC WITH CHARCOAL STAINIG
MOTTLED ORANGE BROWN SILT

CfDk 48 DAVIDSON SITE
TEST UNIT 4
AREA OF HISTORIC STRUCTURE

0 20 40 60 80 100 cm

Figure 7— CfDk48 Davidson Site, Test Unit 4, Area of Historic Structure

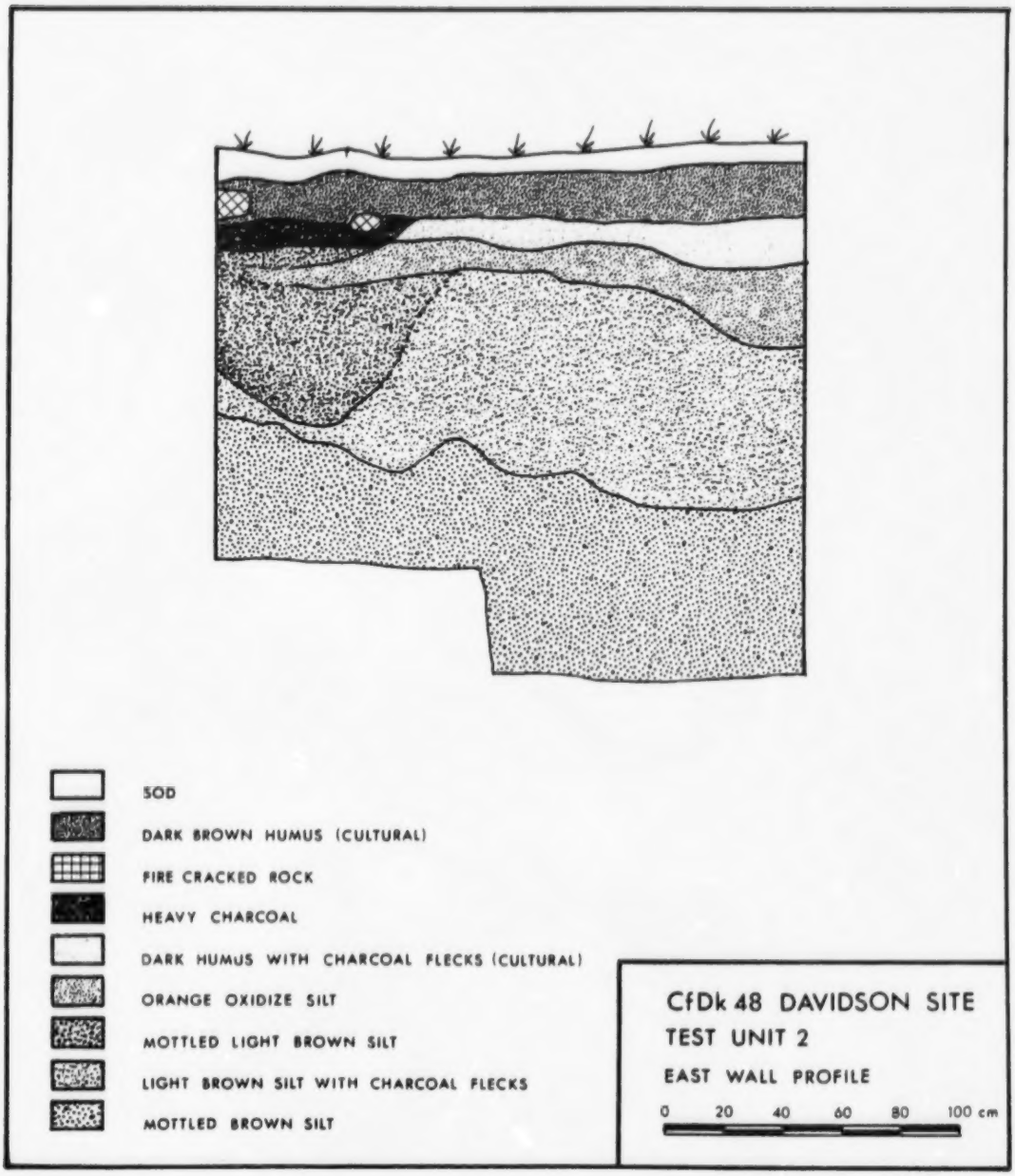

SOD
DARK BROWN HUMUS (CULTURAL)
FIRE CRACKED ROCK
HEAVY CHARCOAL
DARK HUMUS WITH CHARCOAL FLECKS (CULTURAL)
ORANGE OXIDIZE SILT
MOTTLED LIGHT BROWN SILT
LIGHT BROWN SILT WITH CHARCOAL FLECKS
MOTTLED BROWN SILT
CfDk 48 DAVIDSON SITE
TEST UNIT 2
EAST WALL PROFILE
0 20 40 60 80 100 cm

Figure 8— CeDk4 O'Brian Site, Test Unit 2, looking towards the confluence of the Renous and the Southwest Miramichi Rivers.

Figure 9— CdDl2 Six Mile Brook Site, looking west at areas of Test Units 2 and 3, cleared area of site

Figure 10— CdDl2 Six Mile Brook Site, river bank profile and Test Unit 3, west wall profile

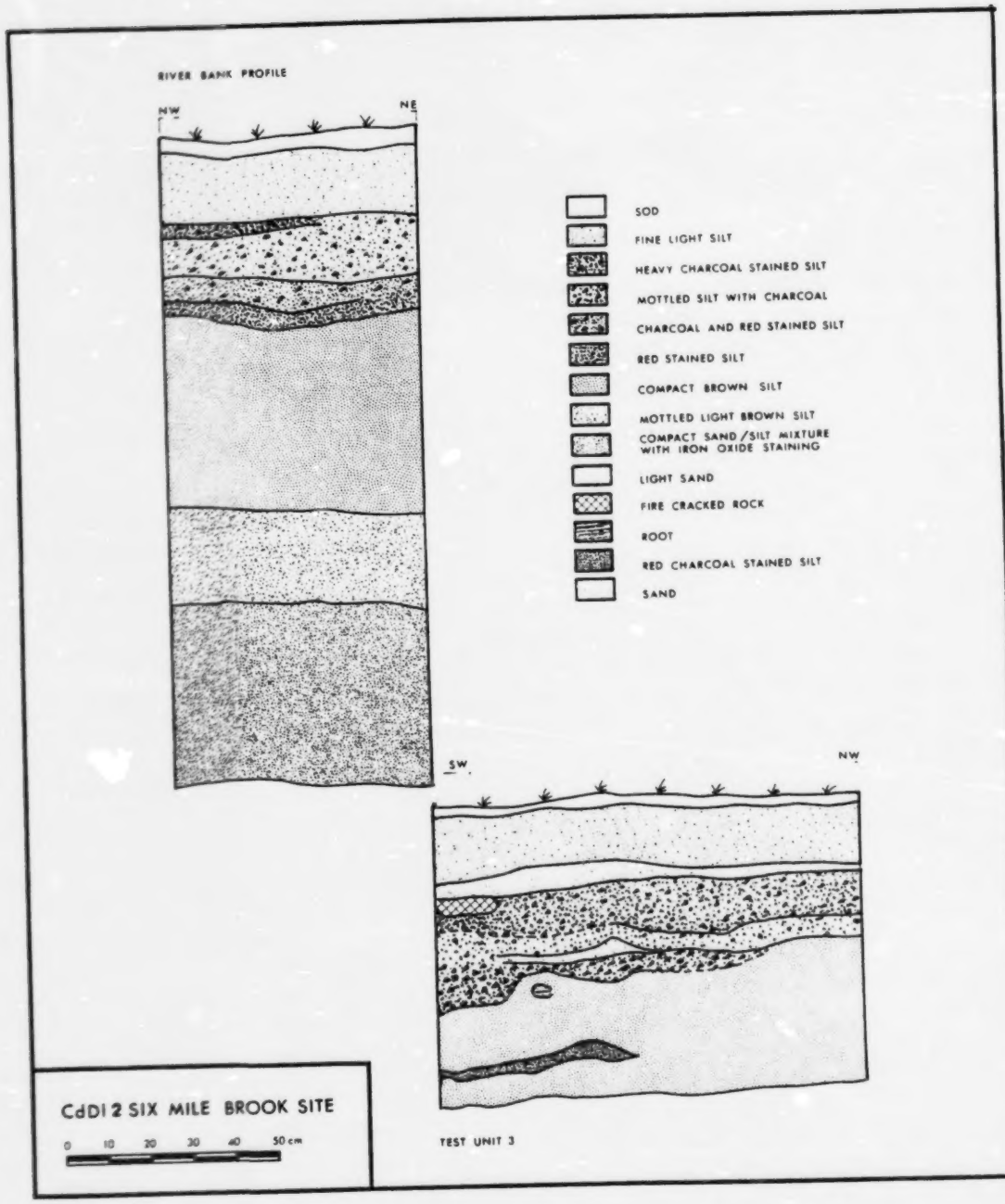
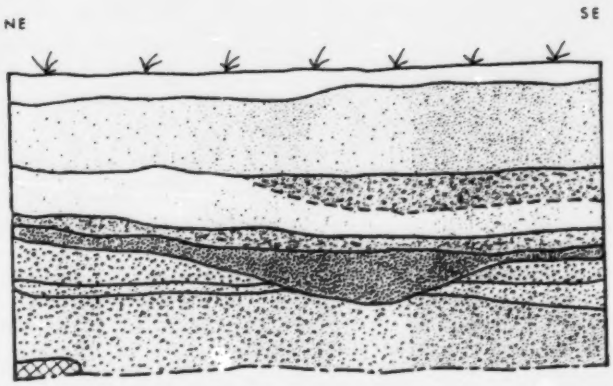

RIVER BANK PROFILE
NW
NE
SOD
FINE LIGHT SILT
HEAVY CHARCOAL STAINED SILT
MOTTLED SILT WITH CHARCOAL
CHARCOAL AND RED STAINED SILT
RED STAINED SILT
COMPACT BROWN SILT
MOTTLED LIGHT BROWN SILT
COMPACT SAND/SILT MIXTURE WITH IRON OXIDE STAINING
LIGHT SAND
FIRE CRACKED ROCK
ROOT
RED CHARCOAL STAINED SILT
SAND
SW
NW
CdDl 2 SIX MILE BROOK SITE
0 10 20 30 40 50 cm
TEST UNIT 3

Figure 11— CdDl2 Six Mile Brook Site, Test Unit 2, east wall profile



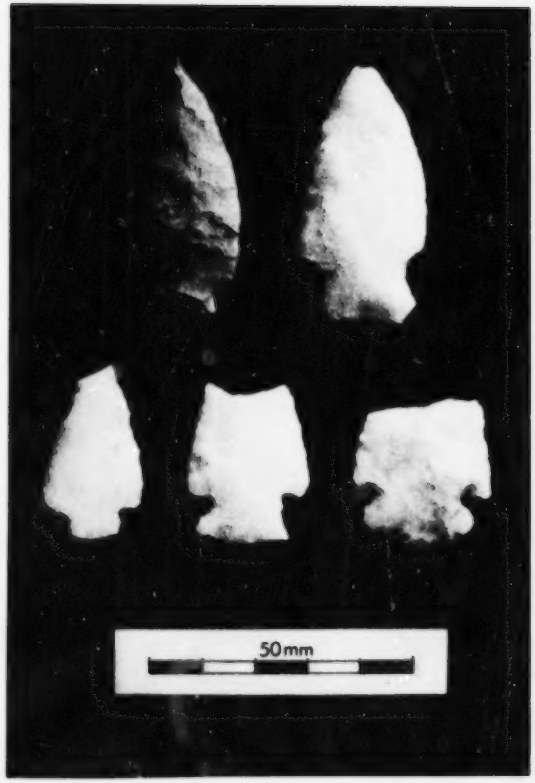
SOD
FIRE CRACKED ROCK
LIGHT SILT/HUMUS
PINK SAND
LIGHT SAND
LIGHT SILT
RED AND CHARCOAL STAINED SILT
BROWN SILT
CHARCOAL STAINED SILT

CdDl 2 SIX MILE BROOK SITE
E WALL PROFILE TEST UNIT 2

0 20 40 60 80 100 cm

Figure 12 a). CfDk48, Corner–notched Projectile Points, Lorek A. Davidson, Private Collection.

b. CfDk48, Stemmed Projectile Points, Lorek A. Davidson, Private Collection


50mm

50mm

Figure 13 a). CdDl2 Late Archaic Projectile Point, Angus M. Curtis, Private Collection.

b). CdDl2 Late Archaic Axe, Albert Curtis, Private Collection

50mm

Figure 14— CfDk48 Late 18th century and Early 19th century Historic Artifacts
a) white saltglaze stoneware,
b) saltglaze stoneware with cobalt blue,
c) fragments of plain creamware,
d) Rhenish stoneware with cobalt blue
e) Chinese porcelain
f) pharmaceutical bottle base,
g) drinking goblet fragment,
h) lead problematical,
i) silver cuff link,
j) white metal button (reverse side) and
k) cast lead rope weight.

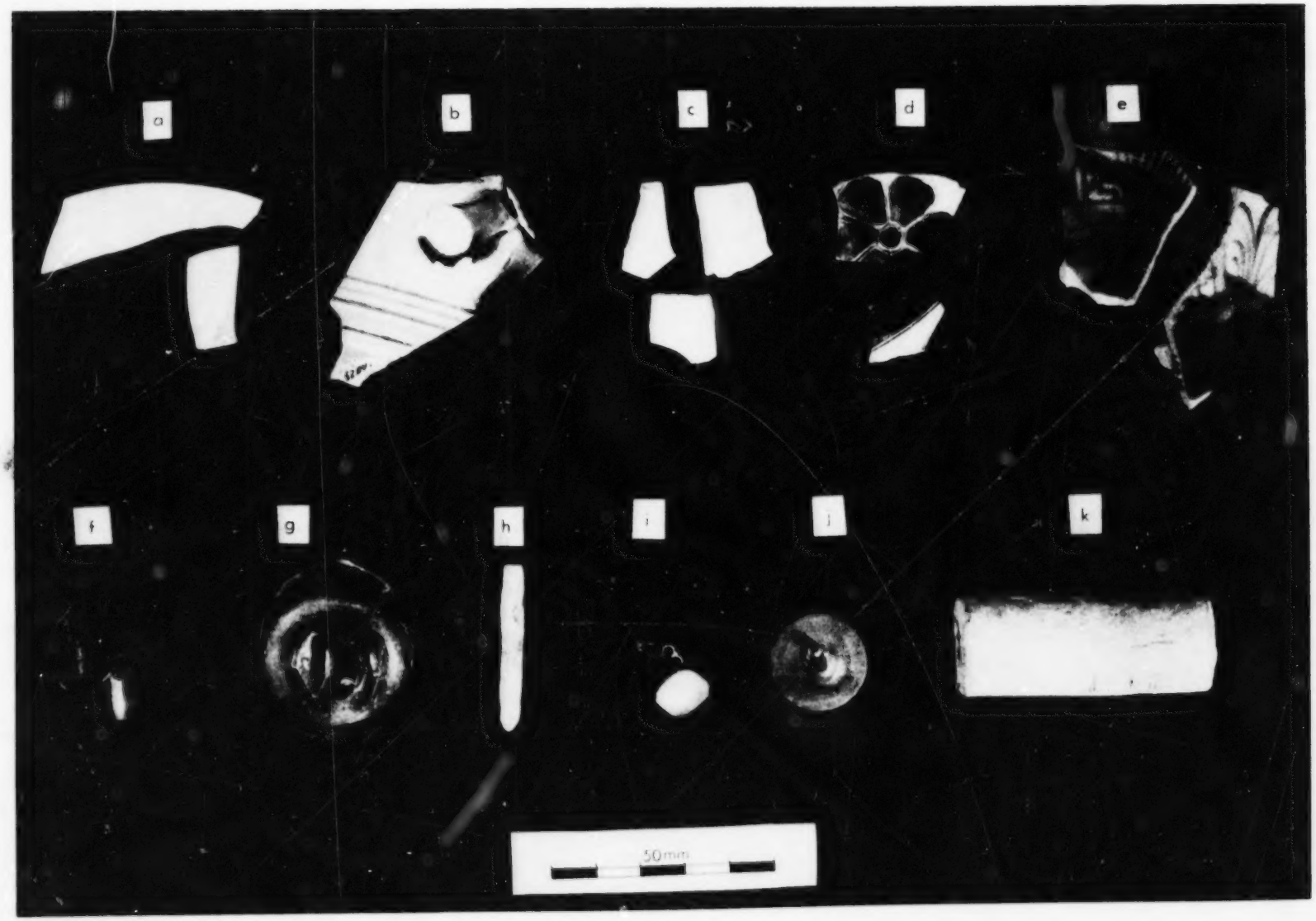

a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
i
j
k
50mm

Figure 15— CfDk48 Historic Artifacts—Metal
a) square headed spike,
b) iron pin,
c) ring pin,
d) iron spike,
e–h) hand wrought nails, spikes and tacks and
i) knife blade with fragment of bone handle

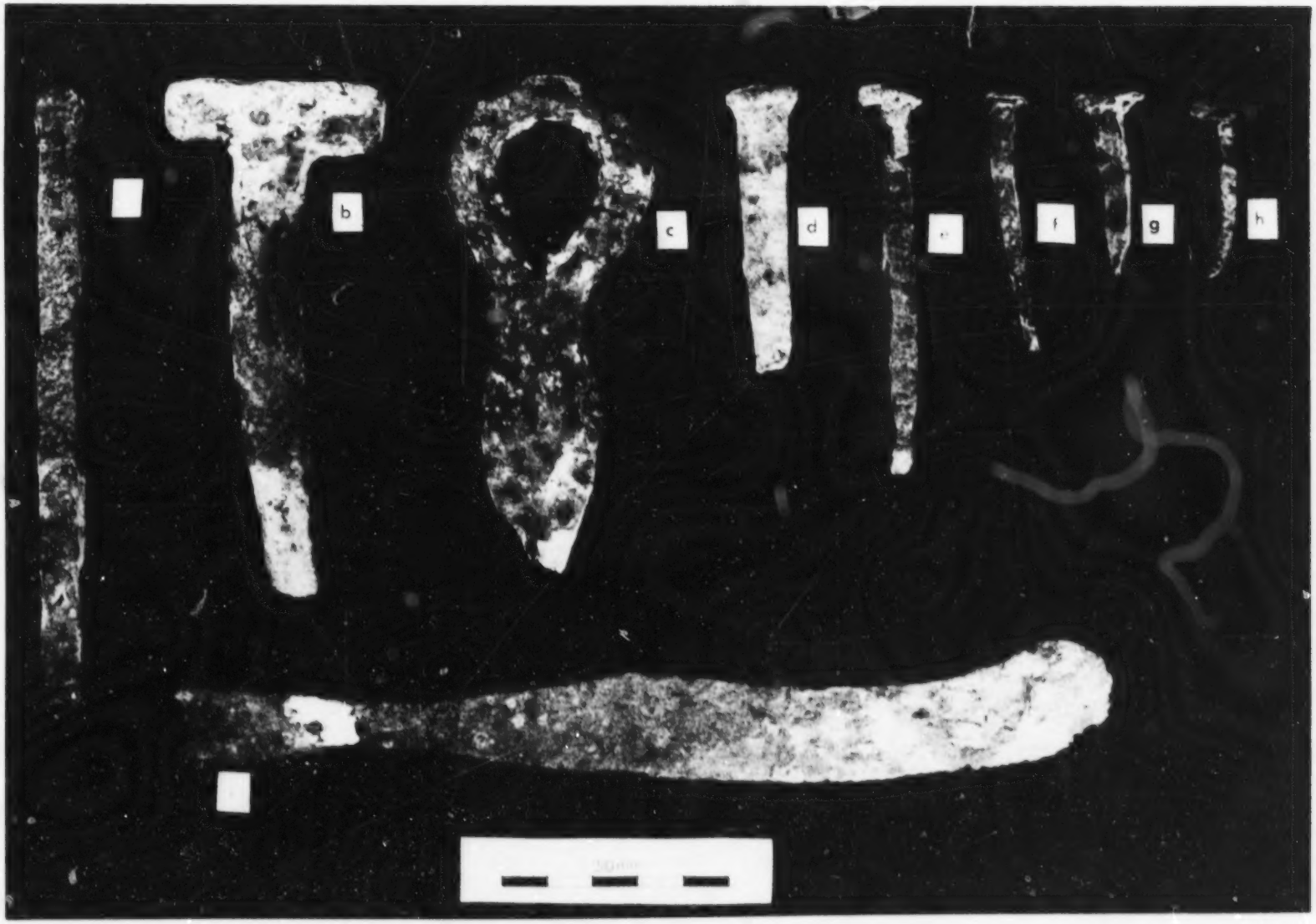

b
c
d
f
g
h

Figure 16— CfDk48 Prehistoric Artifacts
a–h) biface fragments and
i) small biface base
j) corner–notched projectile point,
k) small stemmed projectile point,
l) stemmed projectile point, and
m) bipointed projectile point base.

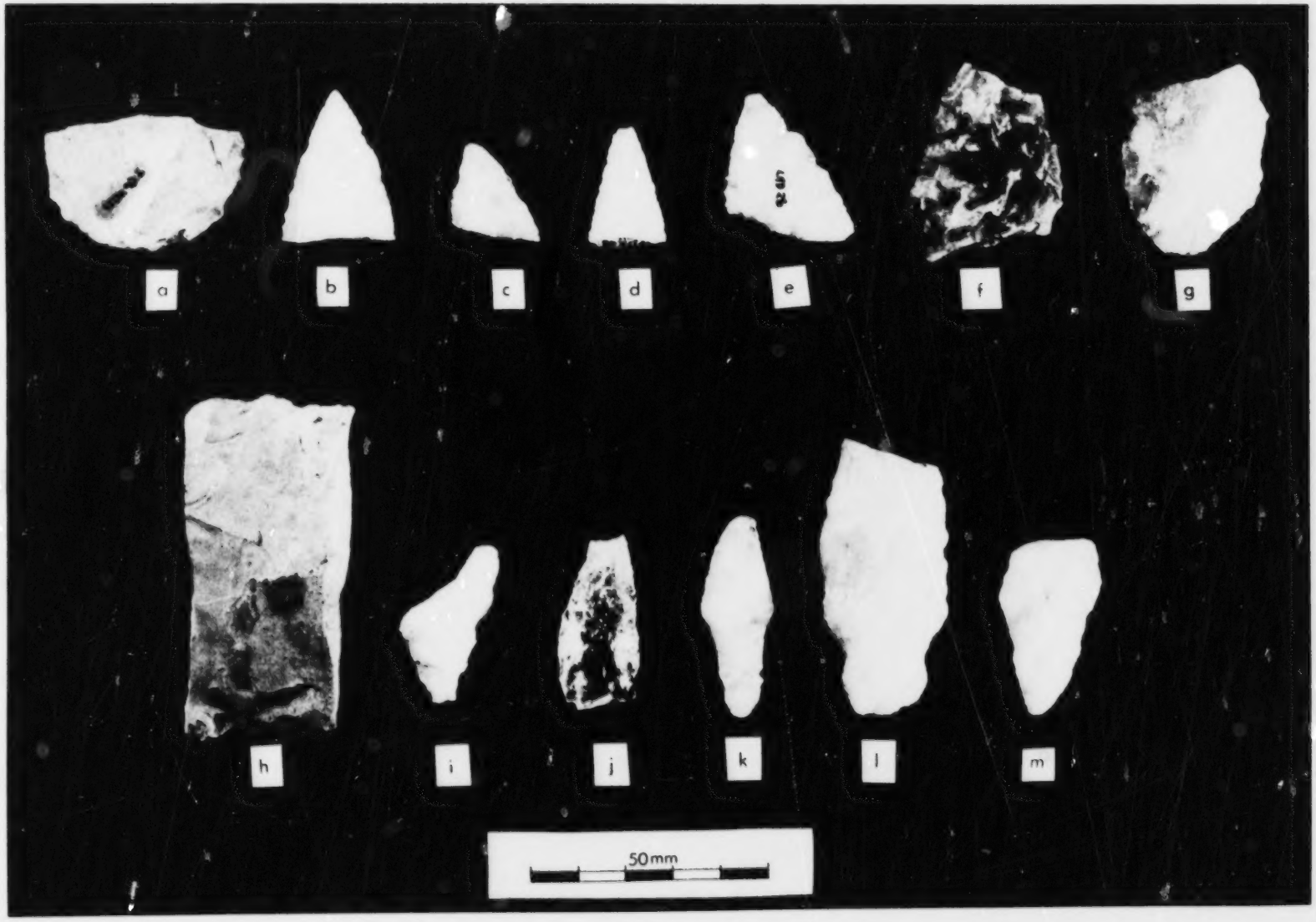

a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
i
j
k
l
m
50mm

Figure 17— CfDk48 Prehistoric Artifacts
a–g) unifaces,
h) pseudo–scallop decorated rim sherd,
i) dentate stamped pottery fragment and
j) decorated bone fragment

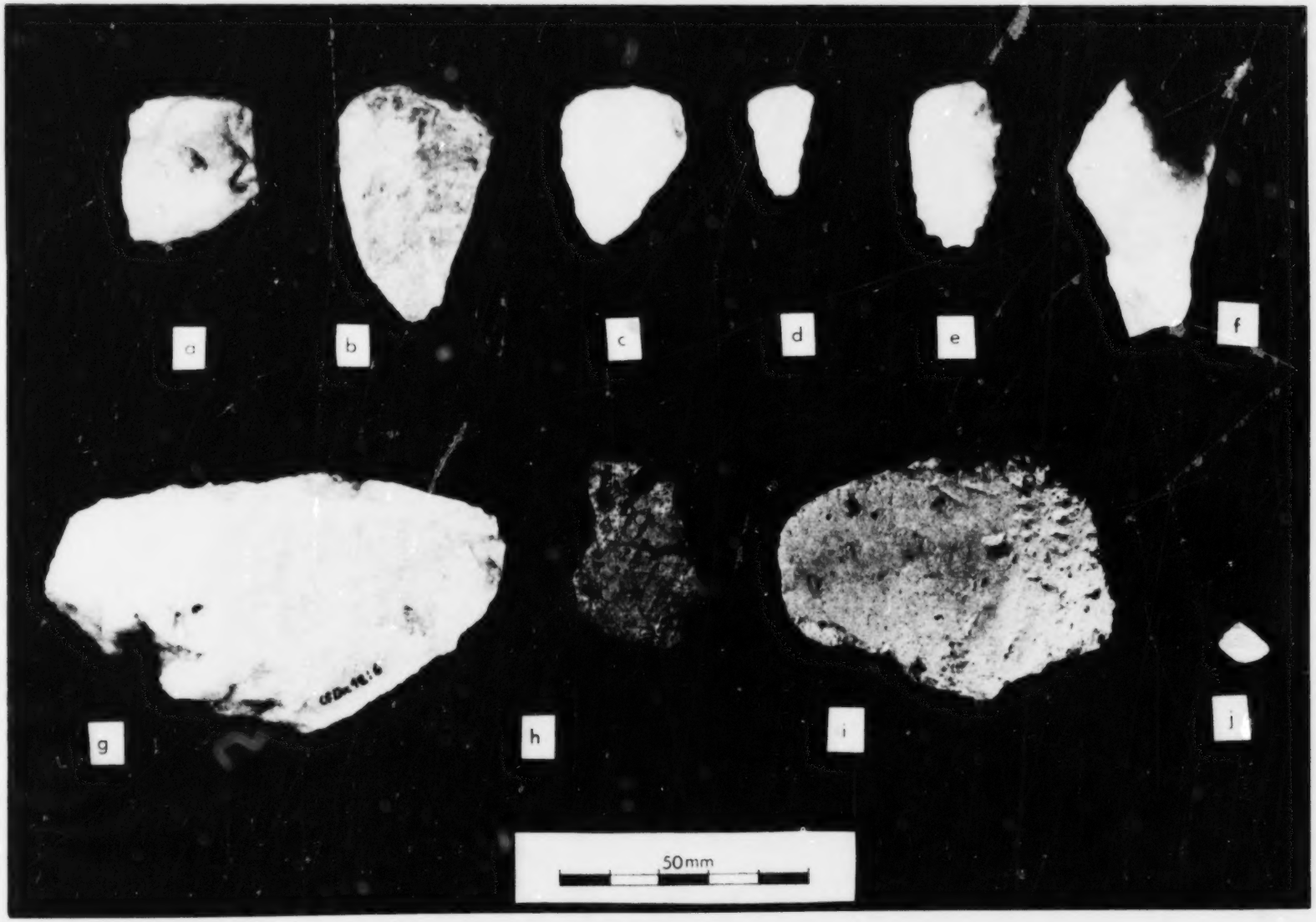
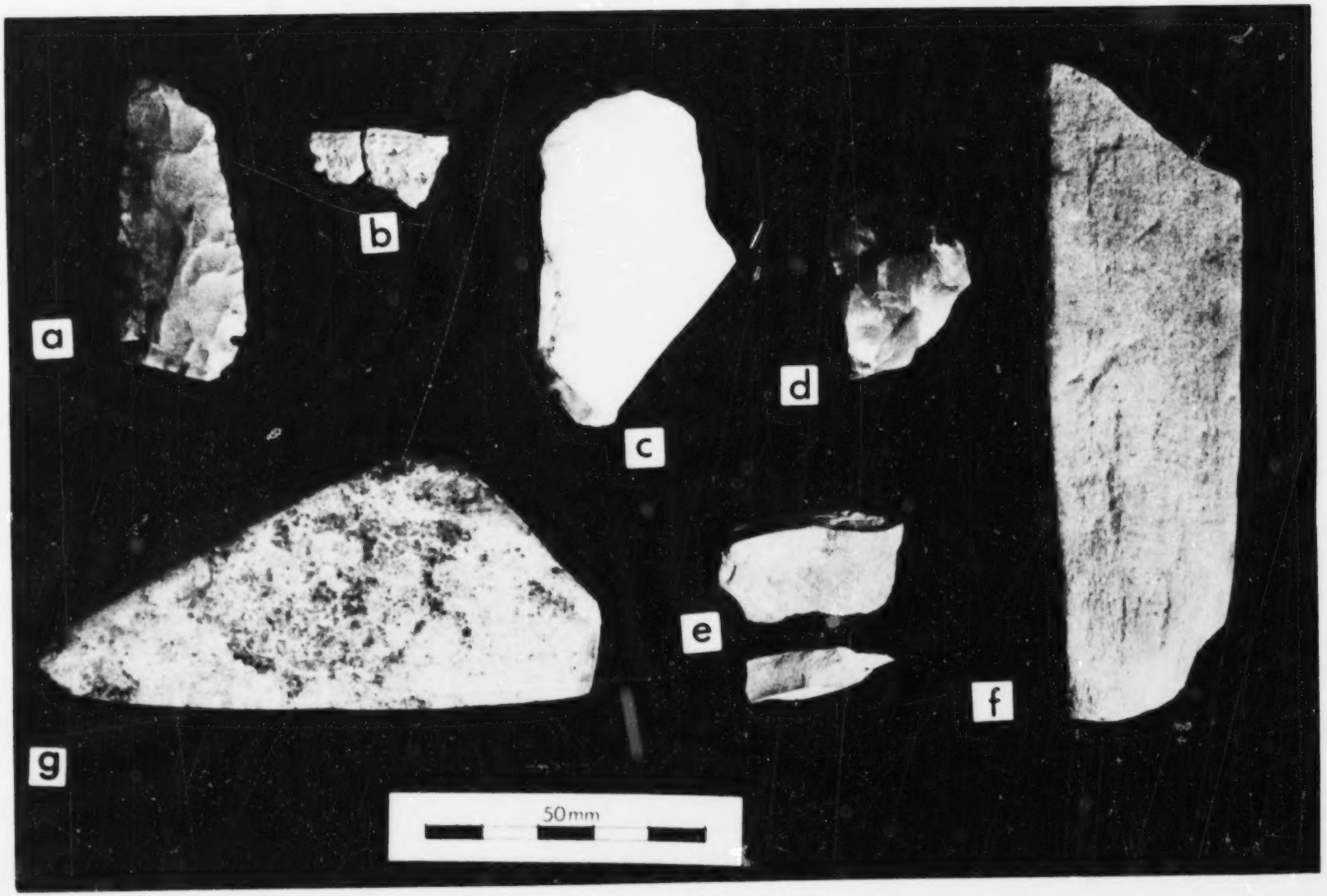

a
b
c
d
e
f
g
h
i
j
50mm

Figure 18— CdDl2 Prehistoric Artifacts
a) corner–notched projectile point,
b) dentate stamped pottery rim,
c) quartz scraper,
d) chert scraper,
e) two flakes of ground stone,
f) abraded rectangular bar, and
g) abraded triangular bar.


a
b
c
d
e
f
g
50mm

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